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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 18 | Humidity 38% Fog/mist in the morning and partly cloudy sky later Sensex 61,150 | Nifty 18,212 | Gold 48,8 | er 61,000 | De | 84.32 | GBP 100.79

DURING TESTING TIMES, BBMP TO TEST MORE

CITY PAGE 2

The perils of being unvaxxed

61% of patients in ICU-V are unvaccinated

CITY PAGE 3

Bengaluru has 479 active containment zones in all eight zones as East zone leads with highest positivity rate at 11.33%

BEAST FROM THE EAST

CV Raman Nagar, Shantinagar, Hebbal on close watch

Iffath Fathima
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With the covid cases surging across the country, and in Bengaluru, the positivity rate crossed the 5%-mark in all the zones of the city in the past seven days.

The east zone reported the highest number of cases, and highest positivity rate at 11.33%, amongst all the zones. According to BBMP war room data released on Wednesday, over 1,506 cases were reported in the east zone. In the past seven days, 13,298 tests were carried out in the zone, and during this period the positivity rate hit 11.33%.

South zone, meanwhile, had the second highest number of cases reported at 1,499 cases with 13,332 tests conducted during the 7-day period, while the positivity rate stood at 11.24%.

"In CV Raman Nagar, Shantinagar and Hebbal constituencies, we are seeing a high number of cases. There are certain areas in these constituencies that have been identified, as a high number of cases are found. We are keeping a close check. Majority of the cases reported are due to domestic travel. There will be a higher number of cases, but the situation is well under control — nobody needs to panic, while they have to stay cautious," BBMP chief commissioner Gaurav Gupta said.

Another official pointed out that people do not seem to follow covid

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Majority of cases reported are due to domestic travel. There will be a higher number of cases; but, the situation is well under control — nobody needs to panic, while they have to stay cautious

–Gaurav Gupta, BBMP chief

Events that shook Karnataka

What's behind 21 micro tremors registered between December 2020 and December 2021 in state

Garima Prasher
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka witnessed 21 small and medium intensity earthquakes in 2021. From Bidar in the far north to Chikkaballapur in the south, these jolts were frequent affairs last year, with Bengaluru joining the tremor club recently.

As per the government of India's National Centre for Seismology, while only two tremor events were recorded in Karnataka between August 2019 and December 2020, as many as 21 events were registered between December 2020 and December 2021. Out of these, 18 were recorded from north Karnataka districts and three were registered from the south. Majority of these were of magnitude 3.0 and above.

"Yes, the state experienced multiple micro tremors in 2021. Districts of Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Bidar and Chikkaballapura are the areas where these tremors were felt more frequently," said Dr Manoj Rajan, commissioner of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC).

So, why is the state seeing so many earthquakes? Are these minor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

TESTING TIMES AGAIN

Palike adopts safe-than-sorry approach, ramps up testing in B'luru to fight the virus

Divya Shree KB
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Palike in action: Citizens line up at a Primary Health Centre to get tested and vaccinated; health workers collect swab samples for testing at various places in the city

Though the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) specified that there was no need for unnecessary testing of asymptomatic individuals in community settings, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has decided not to take any chances. Instead, the corporation is gearing up to increase testing in the city.

Currently, 70,000 tests are conducted in the city and there are plans to scale the testing to 1 lakh to 1.3 lakh. On Wednesday, a record of 97,861 tests were conducted in Bengaluru.

During an interaction, BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta said there won't be any let-down in testing as it was essential. Batting for Gupta's decision, Dr Swati Rajagopal, Consultant - Infectious Disease & Travel Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital, said: "The primary contacts of the confirmed case must be tested irrespective of whether high or low risk. It's important that primary contacts remain at home for seven days and testing be done at seven days even if asymptomatic before coming out of quarantine. With such a high level of community transmission, primary contacts must be tested. I would sincerely urge primary contacts of a positive case to get themselves tested at seven days post-exposure (if no symptoms) or if with symptoms SOS. This is important to prevent the spread of infection to other family members and to the community."

> **"With such a high level of community transmission, primary contacts of covid-positive people must be tested**
> – Gaurav Gupta, Chief Commissioner

However, Dr Rakshay Shetty (Paediatric Intensivist from Rainbow Children's Hospital, Marathahalli) vouched for ICMR's decision stating that not testing asymptomatic patients was a logical one. "This might decrease the load on labs in providing timely results. These were important in the early part of the pandemic with unvaccinated population and disease containment. At the current stage of the pandemic, it probably adds little value. Hence, the focus should be on vaccination and standard practice of masking and social distance at this phase."

160 patients admitted on Tuesday

Gupta said that the number of cases in Bengaluru has risen sharply from 200 to about 15,000 in the last 15 days, in line with the increase in other major cities in the country and in the world. However, the only breather so far is that the hospitalisations continue to be low though the admission numbers are slowly picking up.

From 20 admissions in a day, the hospitalisations had risen to 160 on Tuesday, which was the highest so far for the third wave. The problems of oxygen saturation level dropping are not being witnessed in this wave. Paediatric cases continue to remain at about 12 per cent of overall cases and there was no significant increase over the earlier cases.

Triaging

Gupta said that all positives are mandatorily tele-triaged within 24 hours of test results. While physical triaging was being taken up in cases in the low case scenario, now only those who have symptoms are physically triaged at the doorstep by mobile triage units (MTUs). All wards have one or two MTUs depending on caseload. There are 198 wards under BBMP. Physical triaging is also done for all patients considered high risk, patients of more than 60 years and/or having co-morbidities.

Hospitalisation and bed allocation

As of now, 3,237 beds under government hospitals, 2,696 beds under government medical colleges, 13,540 beds under private hospitals, and 8,594 beds under private medical colleges are identified, totalling to 28,067 beds. Of these, as of now 6255 beds are made available for allotment under the CHBMS, and 362 are allotted by CHBMS (government quota). More than 90 per cent of covid-affected people would not need to be hospitalised. Covid Care Centres (CCCs) are being set up by the BBMP to shift people who cannot be under home isolation. 27 such CCCs are being set up and would be operational by Friday, 14 Jan 22.

Markets to be shifted

Markets shall be shifted from the core areas and placed at open areas, with more spacing, to ensure social distancing. Guidelines regarding the same shall be issued at the earliest. Revised advisories for resident welfare associations/apartments are put in place and shall be issued at the earliest. As there are many cases identified in paying guests, hostels etc., increased restrictions shall also be imposed on hostels and paying guests, to ensure effective containment, orders regarding the same shall be issued at the earliest.

15,000 cases in Bengaluru

Covid cases saw a big jump in Bengaluru as the daily count went up from 10,800 (Tuesday's report) to 15,617 on Wednesday. It was on May 15 last year, when the city had crossed the 15,000 mark. The state tally too went beyond 20,000 as 21,390 cases were reported.

Due to the increase in cases, the active cases also went up drastically as there are 93,099 active cases in the state out of which, 73,654 were in Bengaluru alone.

The deaths have also slowly increased as it touched the double digits (10 deaths in the state including six in Bengaluru alone). The testing has also increased with a record 1.95 lakh people tested in the state.

Online classes for Grades one to nine till Jan 31

Prakash VL
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Minister of Primary and Secondary Education and Sakala BC Nagesh said on Wednesday that physical classes for first standard to ninth standard will be closed till January 31 in Bengaluru. For other districts, based on the number of cases, DCs and tehsildars can take a decision.

At a video conference with deputy commissioners and officials of public instruction, Nagesh said: "Even though the cases of infections are on the rise, the number of hospitalisations is less. We have given instructions to schools, PU colleges that even if one case of infection is found, all students must be tested and avail of the treatment. Schools must be sanitised and stop the physical classes," adding added that the government was also aiming at speeding up the vaccination drive for eligible students.

"Covid-19 is spreading like wildfire not just among adults, but children as well. There are 860 students and 85 teachers affected by the virus. It started with Chikkamagaluru residential school and spread to other districts. Earlier it was around 100 cases and now it has risen to 1000. As the city's infections are increasing, schools shall be closed from 1st to 9th standards," said a source.

The Department of Public Instructions said that according to their data, 34 educational districts in Belagavi has 160 cases and Chikkamagaluru has 144 cases. Raichur, Vijayapura, and Yadagiri districts found no cases of infected students and teachers. Among 85 teachers infected, Hassan has 24 infected teachers and Chikkamagaluru 16. The Covid technical committee will now suggest how to continue classes for students whose schools are now closed.

The Department of Public Instructions is now preparing for Vidyagama. Because of the shortage of equipment for online classes, it is broadcasting classes on Chandana TV. It has published the timetable on the website and also instructed the teachers and parents to instruct them to watch the classes on the channel. The details can be found on http://dsert.kar.nic.in/

A teacher at St Aloysius High School, Cleveland Town, conducts an online class for Class 9 students

61% in ICU-V are unvaxxed

62 per cent of covid patients who are fully vaccinated did not require hospitalisation

Pragna L Krupa
pragna.krupa
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

According to the latest Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) data, about 61 per cent of Covid patients who have been admitted to the Intensive Care Unit - Ventilator (ICU - V) are unvaccinated, followed by 55.38 per cent in the Intensive Care Unit.

Out of 36 patients who are admitted in the ICU-V, 22 are not vaccinated, four are partly vaccinated and 10 fully vaccinated. In ICU, 65 patients are admitted of which, 36 are not vaccinated, 12 are partly vaccinated and 17 fully vaccinated. In HDU, 42.34 per cent have not been vaccinated, 18.14 per cent are partly vaccinated and

> **"Mostly senior citizens and those with comorbid conditions are requiring oxygen beds** – BBMP health officer

39.50 per cent are fully vaccinated Interestingly, 62 per cent of people who are fully vaccinated did not require hospitalisation and are in home quarantine while only 20 per cent of people who are not vaccinated are in home isolation.

Dr Balasundar AS, Chief Health Officer, BBMP, said that the majority of patients who are not vaccinated are in severe condition. "We have been spreading awareness about the vaccine and yet, some people are not coming forward to take it. It is mostly senior citizens and those with comorbid conditions who are requiring oxygen beds and to prevent that, we are encouraging senior citizens to go for booster doses."

A health worker administers covid-19 vaccine for the 15-17 age group at a private school in Bengaluru

A senior officer said that in the last wave, many who were hesitant to take vaccines, came forward and took them after witnessing so many deaths and severity of cases in the city. "There is a very small percentage of people who have not taken the vaccine and some have skipped their second doses. We are hoping that they realise soon and immediately take them to protect themselves and their family," he said.

Of 17,058 covid cases in the city, 60 per cent of them are fully vaccinated, 18.2 per cent are partly vaccinated and 20.8 per cent are not vaccinated, he said.

Status	CCC	GEN	HDU	ICU	ICU-V	HI	Total
Fully	132	73	111	17	10	10038	10381
Partial	163	65	51	12	4	2827	3122
Not vaccinated	60	85	119	36	22	3233	3555
TOTAL	355	223	281	65	36	16098	17058

The given numbers are as on December 31.
The BBMP is yet to compile the recent data)

Job scam: Woman conned of Rs 38.9K

An employee of Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited filed a complaint with the CEN police after she was allegedly conned by a cyber criminal on the pretext of giving her a project.

The woman, Gowri (name changed), a data entry operator, filed the complaint with the Central CEN police on Friday after the accused reportedly stopped responding to her calls. She told the police that on December 15, she received a call from an unknown person who offered her a job of data entry and gave her a project to complete. On completion, she was asked to send the project to an email ID. After submitting it, she started to receive multiple calls from the accused, who asked her to pay GST charges for the project and in multiple transactions, they took about Rs 38,930 from her and stopped responding to her. — BMB

No entry in Metro trains after full occupancy

Metro stations in the city will now permit entry to passengers only till it reaches the seating capacity.

The decision was taken by the Karnataka government to control the spread of covid.

As per the latest advisory, the rule will be implemented with immediate effect. If passengers note that seating capacity in a train is full, they have to board the leaner coaches or following trains where adequate capacity is available.

It may also be noted that on account of weekend curfew, the BMRCL will be operating fewer trains on Saturdays and Sundays at frequencies of 30 minutes instead of 20 minutes from now onwards. — BMB

Govt puts brakes on Mekedatu padayatra

Facing rap from the Karnataka High Court, the Karnataka government has put brakes on the Congress' Mekedatu padayatra. According to the advisory released on Wednesday evening, "The padayatra is endangering the lives of a large number of people. The padayatra is likely to aggravate the already worsening covid-19 situation in the state. The government is satisfied that the current circumstance requires stringent enforcement of covid-appropriate behaviour and prevent large gathering in protests, rallies, padayatra among others, to break the chain of covid transmission in the State. Movement of vehicles and persons for participating in the padayatra is prohibited. — BMB

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- You must provide the following to the DP to open your DEMAT account:
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  - Cancelled cheque
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Contact your banker or broker for any assistance.

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*Details of proposed IPO will be intimated once finalised.

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STUCK IN A JAM

Peenya Elevated Flyover is still closed for maintenance work... Businesses are suffering and citizens stuck in traffic are having a hard time

Shreyashi Mukherjee & Naveen Shivanna
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

SHREYASHI MUKHERJEE & NAVEEN SHIVANNA

Perplexed commuters figuring out how to get past the horrible congestion at Tumakuru Flyover

The Peenya Elevated Highway or Dr Shivakumara Swamiji Flyover, which connects Bengaluru to Nelamangala is still closed due to maintenance works. The five-kilometre-long flyover will most likely open on January 14.

Bangalore Mirror took a test drive to check out various problems faced by motorists. The flyover was shut on December 25 as the authorities began repair work. Due to the road being closed, commuters were stuck in heavy traffic. Most were frustrated and perplexed as they had to opt for diversions and other roads.

Vinod, a food delivery executive, was waiting for the traffic to clear to be able to carry out his work. He said, "Earlier, I could deliver two to three orders within an hour. Now, I am able to deliver only one order per hour and my ratings and earnings are both diminishing."

Praveen, who works in Dasarahalli, said, "There is no way to escape the traffic. Even if I leave home early it becomes difficult for me to reach my office on time. I get told off every day for reaching late. I was threatened that they (his employers) would deduct my salary."

Neetha RG, who runs a physiotherapy clinic named Physio X10 in 8th Mile, said, "Because of the traffic we are seeing fewer patients. They are not coming to our clinic because they want to avoid the jam. We too cannot make it on time to our patient's homes for care treatments."

The traffic jams are badly affecting businesses of auto rickshaw drivers too. Most rides are cancelled as drivers are unable to reach customers on time. Anand, an auto rickshaw driver, said, "Customers keep complaining. But there is no other option. We have to wait."

Emergency ambulance services have also been disrupted owing to the heavy traffic.

Jaya Kumar, an ambulance driver of Prakriya Hospital, said, "It is very difficult. The condition of critical patients deteriorates as we are not able to take them to the hospital on time. I was stuck in traffic for 25 minutes with a patient who had extremely high fever. He only got worse during the waiting."

The police said that people travelling to Tumakuru must turn left at Goraguntepalya and enter NICE Road to leave the city and those taking the Tumakuru Road to enter the city must enter NICE Road from Madavara.

> **The condition of critical patients deteriorates as we are unable to take them to the hospital on time. I was stuck in traffic for 25 minutes with a patient who had extremely high fever**
>
> –Jaya Kumar, ambulance driver

T Paravateesam, deputy general manager and project director at NHAI, said "We are trying our best to complete the construction work by January 14."

He mentioned that during the routine inspection of the flyover, they noticed slippage in four cables. In one span, there was a slippage of three cables and in another span, there was a slippage of one cable. The cables got rusted due to heavy rains. The authorities had stopped traffic as soon as they found the slippage to take appropriate precautionary measures. The problem was detected between pillar 102 and 103 near 8th Mile.

Mahadevapura, here's some tender hope for you

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesgroup.com
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This stretch in Tulasi Layout was dug for BWSSB works and has been in a bad state since

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) called for tenders for the restoration and reconstruction of deteriorated roads in the Mahadevapura constituency. The roads had been dug up by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) for pipeline and sewerage works, and have been in a pathetic condition since.

The executive engineer of the Mahadevapura division called for tenders on Monday, under different packages. Restoration of roads in Kadugodi, Ward 83, will be done for Rs 1,000 lakh and in Hagaduru, Ward 84, which involves 29 works, it will cost Rs 1,100 lakh. In Bellandur, Ward 150, it will cost Rs 1,093 lakh and Rs 1,280 lakh in two different packages. Further restoration work in Hoodi will also be carried out under two packages.

Executive engineer of Mahadevapura zone Muni Reddy said, "The tenders have been called; we are waiting for bidders. Roads in over 31 villages will be restored. They were dug due to BWSSB's projects in 110 villages. After bidders are confirmed, we will generate funds and the restoration will begin."

The last date for submission for tenders is January 20. On January 21, a pre-bid meeting will be held and the opening of the technical bid will be held on February 1.

With tenders being called for road restoration, residents can heave a sigh of relief. Many had demonstrated with protests against the pathetic condition of the roads. Many roads were filled with slush during rains. Localities in Kasavanahalli, Doddakannelli, Owners Layout, Hagadur and others were in a bad state for years.

A resident of Hagadur said, "We have been told that the roads will be restored, but we haven't seen it being done in ages. Many roads are neglected and in a pathetic state. Forget riding or driving on these stretches, one cannot walk here. If tenders are called and roads are really going to be fixed, we can heave a sigh of relief. Many have been hoping to see good, asphalted roads here for years."

Another resident, Roshan J, said, "Mahadevapura is generating one of the highest incomes. It is like an IT corridor. Many have built homes here and expect to enjoy basic amenities like good roads, water and electricity."

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Too bad
Tharagupet Road

Despite being one of the highest revenue earners, this road and the footpaths in this area are in a bad condition.

Claustrophobic
KR Puram

Vendors at the market are hogging too much space and leaving too little for pedestrians and motorists, a reader told BM.

Neglect sucks
Thanisandra Circle

The roads and footpaths here have not been developed in years.

Jobs, skills that will be in demand in 2022

As more industries adopt tech-driven approaches to grow, cutting-edge jobs and skills will continue to proliferate across the world

Machine learning is to become a highly preferred course

Technological advancements in business operations have ushered reforms across sectors with the onboarding of several measures to conform to the needs of the digital age.

While technologies like AI, machine learning and data analytics will bring in a paradigm shift to meet the requirements over the next few decades, the pandemic advance and its introduction caused several digital disruptions to help maintain continuity across sectors. These changes led to the demand for several skilled professionals across domains. Businesses have had to pivot and change their operational processes to survive and thrive, necessitating a large chunk of the workforce to upskill and reskill.

To ensure learners are gainfully employed across domains, we enumerate skills that are slated to be in demand in 2022.

Data Science

Data has become the backbone for businesses, and worldwide data is likely to cross 149 zettabytes by 2024 up from just two zettabytes a decade ago. Industries will require trained professionals who can help extract actionable information from the realms of gathered data. Businesses will be increasingly dependent on relevant and valuable insights derived from data to offer a better consumer experience to gain an edge over competitors. Hence, data scientists are poised to be highly sought professionals during the next decade. Currently, skilled professionals are scarce, and organisations are willing to higher salaries to onboard these candidates. Hence, learners aiming for a career as a data scientist must focus on learning computer languages, advanced analytics and hone their statistical and data mining skills.

Machine Learning

A subset of AI – machine learning – has become one of the most desired skills in the technology domain. As companies adopt automation tools to anticipate consumer needs, the demand for machine learning professionals will see a significant uptick. The Wall Street Journal has previously reported that jobs postings for AI professionals in the U.S. almost doubled between November 2020 and March 2021. In essence, data scientists and ML professionals have overlapping roles because both work with massive datasets. While data scientists work to extract valuable insights from vast amounts of data, MLscientists ensure that the models and simulations that data scientists work with are accurate and can correctly analyse mammoth amounts of data in real time. As both these fields intersect, it leads to results that were deemed unthinkable. Professionals who can acquire skill sets in either one of these fields stand to benefit immensely during recruitment.

Full-Stack coding

Full-stack coders are in great demand among companies as they increasingly look for skilled computer programmers who can work on the front and back end. Full-stack experts essentially work as web developers or engineers; they build user interfaces, liaison with clients during the project planning and are involved in almost every developmental phase of a project. Hence, the demand for such professionals is high. According to employment website Indeed, a full-stackdeveloper's job was ranked second on the list of Best Jobs of 2020, and its popularity continues to grow due to the increased presence of software and applications in our digitally connected world. Those looking to make a career out of this skill need to have excellent attention to detail with good organisational skills.

As our economies and industries continue to adopt a tech-driven future, these skills will be in demand. Cybersecurity,robotics, cloud computing, blockchain, AR and VR, and allied fields are also on the precipice of a boom. The underlying common thread connecting these trends is that technology-based skills will eventually become a necessity across the board. For instance, all engineers today, whether enrolled in mechanical or civil engineering programmes, are now expected to know how to code. The push towards programming is reflected in the New Education Policy 2020 that includes coding as a skill to be taught to children in schools. Employers today gauge candidates' employability based on skillsets; this includes baseline skills for a job role and the additional abilities.

- By Parikshit Markanday, Chief Business Officer - Employability Programs, Times Professional Learning for TOI

Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research
(A Deemed to be University Declared under Section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)
TAMAKA, KOLAR-563103, KARNATAKA , INDIA

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FACULTY REQUIRED

DEPARTMENT	POSITION	QUALIFICATION
Anatomy	Tutor / Senior Resident	MBBS & MD / MS
Physiology	Tutor / Senior Resident	MBBS & MD / MS
Biochemistry	Tutor / Senior Resident	MBBS & MD / MS
Pharmacology	Assistant Professor Tutor / Senior Resident	MBBS & MD / MS
Microbiology	Tutor / Senior Resident	MBBS & MD / MS
Forensic Medicine	Tutor / Senior Resident	MBBS & MD / MS
General Medicine	Assistant Professor	MBBS & MD / MS
Respiratory Medicine	Associate Professor Senior Resident Junior Resident	MBBS & MD / MS
General Surgery	Assistant Professor	MBBS & MD / MS
Orthopaedics	Assistant Professor	MBBS & MD / MS
Otorhinolaryngology	Senior Resident	MBBS & MD / MS
Ophthalmology	Senior Resident	MBBS & MD / MS
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	Associate Professor Assistant Professor	MBBS & MD / MS
Radio-Diagnosis	Professor/Associate professor Senior Resident	MBBS & MD / MS
Anaesthesiology	Assistant Professor	MBBS & MD / MS
Emergency Medicine	Senior Resident	MBBS & MD / MS
Critical Care	Consultant	MBBS & MD (Anaesthesia) & DCCM with minimum 4 years experience or MBBS & MD (Anaesthesia) & DNB/ Fellowship or DM in Anaesthesia

Qualification & Experience as per NMC Guidelines

Qualification - MBBS & MD/MS (in the Subject)

Position	Teaching Experience	Publications
Professor	As Associate Professor in the subject for 3 (Three) years in a recognized medical college	Should have at least 3 Research publications during the tenure of Associate Professor
Associate Professor	As Assistant Professor in the subject for 4 (Four) years in a recognized medical college	Should have at least 1Research publications during the tenure of Assistant Professor
Assistant Professor	3 years Junior Resident in a recognized medical college & one year as Senior Resident in the subject in a recognized medical college	Not Applicable
Tutor / Senior Resident	Senior Resident is one who is doing his/her residency in the concerned post graduate subject after obtaining PG degree and is below 45 years of age	Not Applicable

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I, Kumara Kalleshappa S/o, Kalleshappa R/o # 45, 1st Floor, 5th A Main, 5th A Cross, Krishna Layout, Devarachikkanahalli, Bengaluru - 560076, Have Changed My Name To Kumar Kalleshappa For All Purposes.

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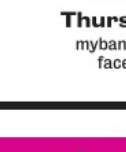

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Rocket scientist Somanath appointed new ISRO chief

Somanath, presently Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, will succeed Sivan

S Somanath joined VSSC in 1985

#NEW DELHI

Eminent rocket scientist S Somanath has been appointed as the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as well as the Space Secretary, a Personnel Ministry order issued on Wednesday said.

Somanath, who is at present Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), will succeed K Sivan who completes his extended tenure on Friday.

Sivan was in January 2018 appointed as the ISRO chief, Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman Space Commission.

He was in December 2020 given a one-year extension till January 14, 2022.

Somanath's appointment as the Space Secretary and the Space Commission Chairman is for a combined tenure of three years from the date of joining of the post, inclusive of an extension in tenure beyond the age of superannuation in public interest, the order said.

The post of the ISRO chairman, the Space Secretary and the Space Commission chief is usually held by one person only.

Somanath, who will be the 10th chairman of the premier space organisation, took charge as the VSSC's head on January 22, 2018, after a two and a half years stint as the Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Valiamala, Thiruvananathapuram.

Previously, he served as the Associate Director (Projects) of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and also as the Project Director of GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle, according to his official biodata.

Under his leadership, the first experimental flight of LVM3-X/CARE mission was successfully accomplished on December 18, 2014, it said.

Somanath did his B Tech in Mechanical Engineering from TKM college of engineering, Kollam, and Masters in Aerospace Engineering from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, with specialisation in structures, dynamics and control. He was a gold medalist.

Somanath joined VSSC in 1985 and was a team leader for the integration of PSLV during the early phases. **PTI**

BCA student's criminal pastime turns him into serial blackmailer

A 21-year-old BCA student has been arrested by the Halasuru police for blackmailing several women he had befriended under the pretext of offering them modelling assignments. He later blackmailed them using their private photographs. The accused has been identified as Prapanch Nachappa. Police have charged him under blackmail, extortion and other sections of the IT Act. Police said since September last year, the accused had blackmailed 20 women, but, his luck ran out after one of the victims approached the police. Based on her complaint, the police traced and arrested him.

Police said the accused was operating on a fake profile name, Pratikha Bohra, on social media sites through which he lured women by offering them modelling assignments. He would get their private photographs and would offer money in return to make believe that it was a genuine assignment. As soon as he got the photos, he would threaten to upload it on social media if they fail to pay the ransom. An officer said he had started it during the lockdown as a pastime but after succeeding in blackmailing he started it full time. —BMB

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Sr. Piping Stress Engineer	8 to 12	B.E. / B.Tech or M.E. / M.Tech - Mechanical	Hands on Experience in CAESAR II.	PIP-SSE
Lead Piping Designer	15+	B.E. / B.Tech or Diploma - Mechanical	Experience in Feed & Detail Engineering. Should have worked in Lead Capacity on min. 3 projects.	PIP-LDE
Sr. Piping Designer	8 to 12	B.E. / B.Tech or Diploma - Mechanical	Hands on Experience in E3D & MDS.	PIP-SDE
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Structural Designer	5 to 10	B.E. / B.Tech or Diploma - Civil	Hands on Experience in E3D & proficiency in AutoCAD.	STR-DE
E3D Admin	5 to 10	B.E. / B.Tech	Hands on Experience in Catalogue, PML & Macro Development.	E3D-AD
Project Engineer	5 to 10	B.E. / B.Tech or M.E. / M.Tech - Mechanical	Hands on Project Experience with proficiency in Primavera.	PRJ-PE
Document Controller	2 to 5	Diploma in Engineering	Hands on Experience in EDMS, MS Office.	PRJ-DC
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Don't treat Omicron as a common cold, warns Govt

People urged to get vaccinated as 300 districts in country are reporting weekly case positivity of over 5 per cent and 19 states have over 10,000 active cases

As many as 300 districts in India are reporting weekly Covid case positivity of more than 5 per cent, the Union government said on Wednesday as it urged people not to treat infection due to Omicron variant as common cold and get vaccinated.

It said Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Gujarat are emerging as states of concern due to the rise in Covid cases there.

Addressing a press conference, Joint Secretary in Health Ministry Lav Agarwal said a sharp rise in covid-19 infections has been noted in India with the case positivity climbing to 11.05 per cent on Wednesday from 1.1 per cent on December 30. Concurrently, Covid cases have been rising globally with January 10 recording the highest ever single-day rise of 31.59 lakh cases worldwide, he said.

NATION

The official said that currently, 300 districts in India are reporting weekly case positivity of more than 5 per cent.

Informing the press conference that 19 states have over 10,000 active Covid cases, Agarwal said Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Gujarat are emerging as states of concern due to the rise in Covid cases there.

Stressing on the importance of getting inoculated, he quoted the World Health Organisation to say that vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization appears to be substantially higher than against symptomatic covid-19 disease.

NITI Aayog Member (Health) V K Paul said, "Omicron is not the common cold, cannot take it lightly. We need to be vigilant, get vaccinated and follow Covid-appropriate behaviour."

"Vaccination is an important pillar in our Covid response programme," he added.

A health worker walks through a snow covered pavement during a door to door campaign for covid-19 vaccination at a village in Baramulla District

'Covaxin booster can neutralise Omicron'

Covaxin's booster dose is able to neutralise the vaccine evading Omicron variant of Covid-19, according to a study conducted at US' Emory University, Bharat Biotech announced on Wednesday. Earlier studies have demonstrated the neutralising potential of Covaxin against other SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern such as Alpha, Beta, Delta, Zeta, and Kappa, it said.
The new study demonstrated "sera from subjects who received a booster dose of Covaxin (BBV152) six months after getting a primary two-dose series of Covaxin (BBV152), neutralised the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron and Delta variants", the Hyderabad-based drug maker said in a statement.
The company said that the neutralisation activity seen among people boosted with Covaxin was comparable to what has been observed in mRNA vaccine-boosted people against the Omicron variant.

Paul said 92 per cent of India's adults have been administered the first dose of covid-19 vaccine while 68 per cent are fully inoculated.

Around 18.86 lakh has been given precaution dose while 38 per cent of the adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years have received the first dose. He said that some senior citizens are yet to get their first dose of vaccine.

> **"We need to be vigilant, get vaccinated and follow Covid-appropriate behaviour. Vaccination is an important pillar in our covid response**
>
> – VK Paul, NITI Aayog

India added 1,94,720 new infections to its tally of covid-19 cases pushing it to 3,60,70,510, according to the Union Health Ministry data on Wednesday. – PTI

Most cases in apartment complexes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

appropriate behaviour which has resulted in the spike.

"Many stopped adhering to covid norms altogether. People have stopped wearing masks. Many attended social gatherings which has led to the spread.

Most of the cases are found in apartment blocks. In places with a high number of cases, we are carrying out strict containment measures to keep the spread under control.

A high number of tests are carried out to trace the cases at a faster pace," said a BBMP official. However, in the east zone, the containment zones reported are at a lesser number than other zones with only 42 active at present, while Mahadevpura has the highest number with 189 containment zones and Bommanhalli has 112 containment zones. So far, the city has 479 active containment zones in all the eight divisions.

'Many cases mild'

A health official from Mahadevapura said: "Most of the cases are of people coming from Maharashtra, Goa and Tamil Nadu, who are testing positive. The cases are mild and are under isolation. Many IT sector employees who have been travelling to work have caught the infection from work places; however, at the moment many offices are working from home and the situation is under control."

Mahadevapura zone also has a high positivity rate at 8.56% with 1,404 cases from 16,396 tests conducted in the past seven day. RR Nagar reported 9.64% positivity rate, Dasarahalli recorded 10.11%, West zone posted 8.76%, Yelahanka registered 7.11% and Bommanahalli hit 7.33% positivity for the coronavirus.

The city has upped testing to trace the cases and contacts at an early stage. The BBMP crossed the 1 lakh mark of covid tests, with 1,03,753 tests conducted on January 10. BM was told, 70,000-90,000 tests were conducted between January 3-9.

Earth shattering: What's behind frequent tremors?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tremors an indication of a big one on its way?

According to the seismologists, such activities, in low probability seismic zones such as Karnataka, are either rainfall/hydro-induced or reservoir-induced — majority of the quakes in Karnataka last year were hydro-induced seismic activity after incessant rainfall.

The state experienced heavy to very heavy rainfall last year. According to rainfall data from Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), the state received 1,337 mm rainfall between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021, against 1,153 mm rainfall in 2020 - an increase of 16%.

Experts said it is the unique subsurface of north Karnataka that triggers this hydrological phenomenon. "The area has a lot of lime and sandstone subsurfaces. In case of high rainfall, water seeps into ground at greater depths, sometimes more than 5 km, and turns acidic in places with pockets of sandstone and limestone, generating fumes. The fumes then escape, causing rock to fall and subterranean sound, followed by a tremor," explained a city-based seismologist.

The experts at KSNDMC were in agreement. "In the last few years, the state has experienced very heavy rainfall, which is one of the reasons for the micro tremors. It can be observed that most of the epicentral regions in the state are from Seismic Zone-II — these regions are considered as zones with low chances of having earthquakes," said Dr Rajan.

> **Experts say the heavy rainfall in State may also have something to do with rise in number of micro tremors**

Owing to the large number of tremors, KSNDMC recently organised a workshop in affected areas to create awareness and capacity building at the district level.

"We wanted to carry out observation and field study in and around the affected areas to ascertain the reasons for earthquakes. Moreover, it is important to create awareness and capacity building at the district level regarding these tremors. The workshop enabled confidence building among the community left in fear during these tremors and helped in explaining to them the probable causes of earthquakes. As an outcome of the workshop, we have received scientific and administrative recommendations from the subject experts from reputed national organisations and research institutes. The report consists of scientific recommendations for taking up geological and geophysical studies and administrative recommendations for mitigation," Dr Rajan told BM.

The frequency of these tremors is likely to subside once the regional groundwater table and ground settles. However, KSNDMC is planning to carry out further geological and geophysical studies for a better understanding of the phenomenon.

Reservoir-induced?

According to experts, some of these tremors may be triggered by reservoirs. While reservoirs are designed and constructed based on the regional geologic, geophysical and geotechnical studies, seismologists BM spoke to said these are not enough.

"Some of the tremors felt in Belagavi might be triggered by the Koyna reservoir in Maharashtra. Although, before a reservoir construction begins, the site undergoes various tests like soil mapping, subsurface mapping, geophysical investigation, geological investigation and the like. However, in certain cases, such as in Koyna, faults beneath the reservoir get activated, leading to seismic activities.

This happens due to increase in volume of the reservoir due to rainfall or artificial dumping of high volume of water," said a seismologist.

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BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 My 14-year-old daughter openly talks about having sex with different boys from her school. She talks like it is normal and says she uses protection. I think the only way she will stop is if she knows that it can be harmful. Are there any risks of having sex in the early teenage years that I can talk to her about?
Such girls are easily taken advantage of and may end up not experiencing any love from a relationship. In India, it's often referred to as 'timepass'. Emphasis should also be laid on the fact that full growth of the body has yet to take place. It is unsafe to have sex with multiple partners because of exposure to STD, HIV/ AIDS infection. Numerous reports of physical abuse/rape have also been reported.

2 I am in love with my distant cousin. We met for the first time a few years ago and our families are not close so we don't feel it is immoral. We have had protected sex a few times and we plan to get married soon. In the future if we decide to have kids, will there be any health issues as we are technically related?
That is not something to worry about as there is a rare chance of hereditary problems occurring.

3 I'm a 30-year-old unmarried man. Last week, when I was about to ejaculate, I tried the stop-and-hold method by using pelvic floor muscle and ejaculated much later. Since then, I'm experiencing pain and a burning sensation in my penis and constantly feel like urinating. I visited a physician to sort the burning sensation and pain. He advised me to undergo a urine routine test and ultrasound scanning. Both the reports were normal. I also observed pimples under the head of the penis. Could you please give advice?
It would be unwise of me to give advice. Please visit a urologist.

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Decoding microbiomes

Skin microorganisms are thought to play a critical role in disease defence

With new technologies and research methodologies emerging every year, the skincare industry has undergone a significant transformation.

Organic products are being developed by the industry, and they will play an important part in long-term skincare. The skin microbiome is one of the primary and important upcoming skincare regimens that will undoubtedly have a significant progression in the Indian beauty industry this year. Microbiomes are made up of trillions of microscopic bacteria that live on the surface of our skin. Though it may appear repulsive, both good and harmful bacteria play a crucial role in keeping our skin healthy, clear, and bright.

Role of the microbiome

Well, there are still more topics to cover in order to learn everything there is to know about the skin microbiome, which, as we all know, plays a critical role in the health, well-being, and protection of human skin and body. Skin microorganisms are thought to play a critical role in disease defence. It is also essential for our immune system, and it has a significant impact on skin health, aesthetics, and personal hygiene. It's critical to learn everything there is to know about the skin microbiome in order to comprehend the makeup of our skin and where the microbiome fits in. Skin health and the presence of skin disorders such as loose skin, black spots, pimples, acne allergies, dark circles, or even the early ageing process have been linked to an imbalance of microbiomes on the skin. The skin microbiome is a collection of bacteria that live on the surface of the skin.

What are skin microbiomes and how does it work

The microbiome of our skin is also known as 'skin flora'. It is made up of a variety of microorganisms that live on our skin. It has a significant impact on our skin's appearance and behaviour. It has an impact on how our skin feels and appears. Your skin is the greatest organ in your body. And it's alive with trillions of creatures with critical genetic and metabolic capacities, such as bacteria, fungi, viruses, and other microbes.

The skin microbiome is the name given to these invisible life things. They're crucial to your general well-being. As we all know, it is made up of both beneficial and bad bacteria that live on the surface of our skin. In order to maintain beautiful, healthy, radiant, immaculate, and vibrant skin, it is critical to have a suitable balance of both bacteria. When beneficial bacteria flourishes and expands, it makes it more difficult for bad bacteria to take control. Maintaining and maintaining adequate balance will aid in the creation and enhancement of your skin's immunity capacity and functions in the treatment of blemishes, dark spots, dark circles, and acne. It acts as an anti-ageing agent and keeps the skin looking youthful and radiant.

For those who are unfamiliar with the characteristics of the skin microbiome and what it comprises, the following information is provided. To make the knowledge easier for you, we've created a guide to assist you with it and to help you identify the key terminology used throughout.

Our skin microbiome is full of probiotics, prebiotics and postbiotics.

Probiotics: Probiotics are the live bacteria that are present on our skin. It also helps in supporting and sustaining the microbiomes.

Prebiotics: Prebiotics are the important and crucial substances on our skin. Its main function is to feed and restore the growth and stability of probiotics.

Postbiotics: Postbiotics are the end-products or outgrowth of which the probiotics form through their disintegration on and within the skin's surface. These postbiotics function in forming a perfect and ideal skin microbiome. It also helps in creating and forming moisture, balancing the skin. It also helps in strengthening the skin's barrier. —IANS

MIRRORLIGHTS

E-dating men's confidence booster

The dating scene in smaller cities is tough. Apprehension in guys and girls living in smaller cities and towns is stopping them from meeting in person. But today, with the help of dating apps, one can talk to someone online and build a relationship.

Dating app QuackQuack, recently surveyed 50,000 men on its app and a stupendous 84 per cent of guys from smaller towns and cities said they feel much more confident talking to a girl after matching online.

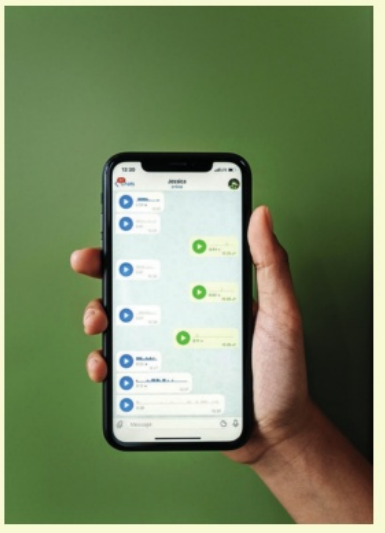
What ushers in this confidence?

Mutual feelings: The survey further revealed that 68 percent of guys feel that matching online on a dating app means the feelings are mutual between you and your match. This gives you the much-needed confidence boost as the fear of rejection is less.

Easier communication: 71 percent of men in the age group 21 to 30 feel it is easier to communicate their feelings on dating apps than in person. Detaching yourself from the physical aspects of being uncomfortable in an awkward situation allows people to be more honest in the digital world.

Safe space: For 56 per cent of men surveyed said the most important thing that boosted their confidence is the fact that they could control how much they wanted to reveal about themselves on dating apps in terms of information, pictures, etc. This saves them from judgemental thinking of friends, family, and society while building a safe space to meet and interact with their ideal match.

Time to think: 47 per cent of men from age 21 to 30 said that with dating apps, they get the advantage of time as they don't have to sound smart and quirky on their toes, as against an in-person interaction. When you get time to think and reflect before you initiate a new topic or reply to a question, you put yourself in a position of confidence —IANS



Kakuro

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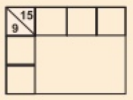
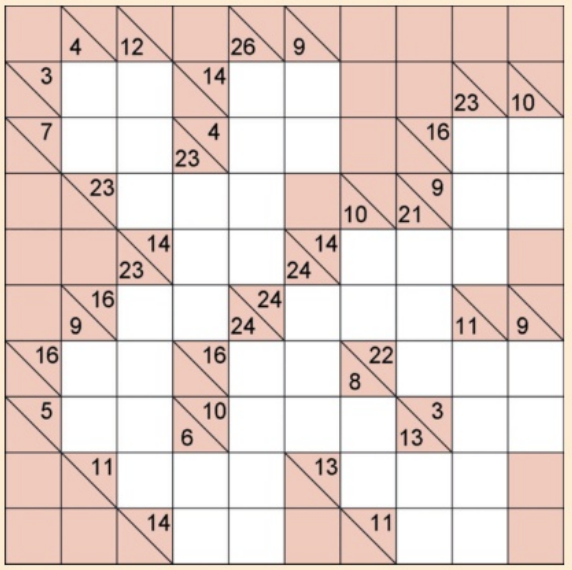
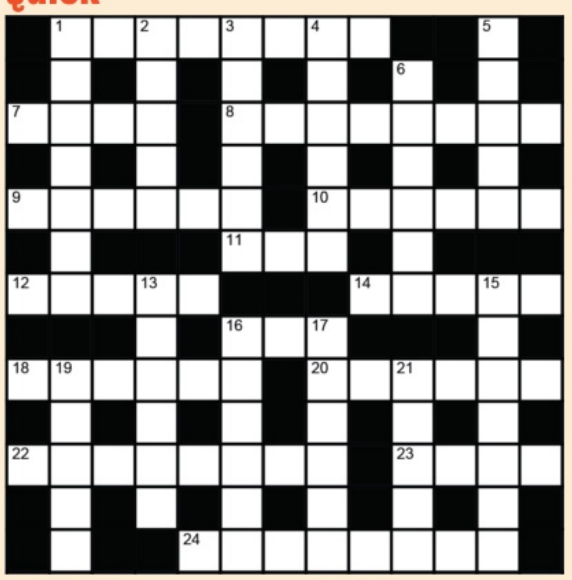


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Yellow flower (8)
7 Pool for an oread? (4)
8 Misbehaving (6,2)
9 Look up to (6)
10 He flew too close to the sun (6)
11 Circuit (3)
12 Destroy gradually (5)
14 Mistakes (5)
16 Morose or glum (3)
18 A water tap in one's house? (6)
20 Climb (6)
22 Illegal (8)
23 Tear apart (4)
24 Suddenly rise (8)

DOWN

1 Digress, diverge or veer (7)
2 India's cricket trophy (5)
3 Tiny stones (6)
4 Utter a series of oaths; swear (3,3)
5 Pacific island, mined for phosphate (5)
6 Available if needed (2,4)
13 Our city is located in this plateau (6)
15 Expression of penitence (7)
16 Packs tightly, forces or crams? (6)
17 Plant with showy, coloured flowers (6)
19 Kinswomen (5)
21 Preposition meaning about (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS U

KSB OUJ SJHK VPJZ XLBXI RPXI HSQPO, PV KSB IUTW UHLWUZK VSBJZ PX RPXISBX PX.

Linemaro

I just had to come talk to you. Sweetness is my weakness

Mindchow

An apology is the superglue of life. It can repair just about anything

Joke of the day

If your feet smell and your nose runs, you are built upside down

Loop

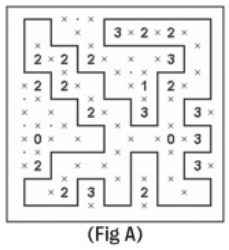
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

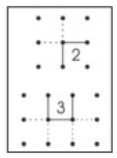
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

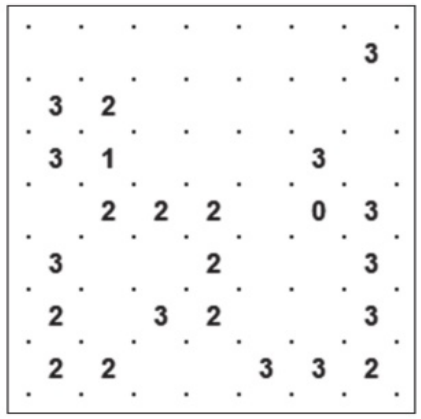
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



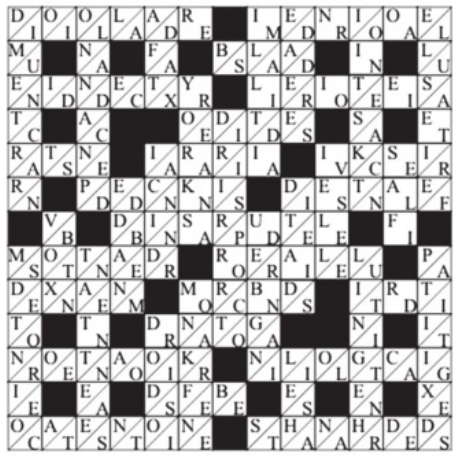
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



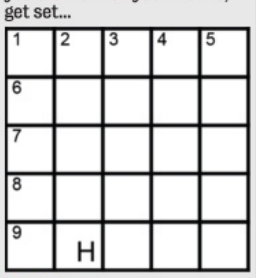
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Roils; 6 Bap ma; 7 Tease; 8 A gait; 9 Hooks

DOWN

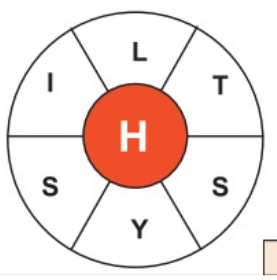
1 Salts; 2 He Boa; 3 At Rio; 4 Amigo; 5 Spake

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

B	Y
C	X
E	V
G	T
K	P
M	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

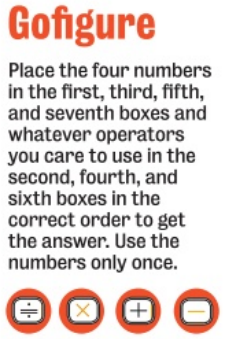
SudokuChallenge

5		7				8		9
	4						6	
9	2		4		6		5	1
			3	4	1			
	3						2	
			7	9	2			
3	1		2		9		7	8
	7						1	
2		8				4		5

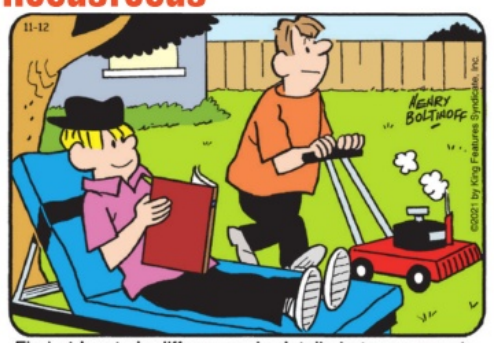
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

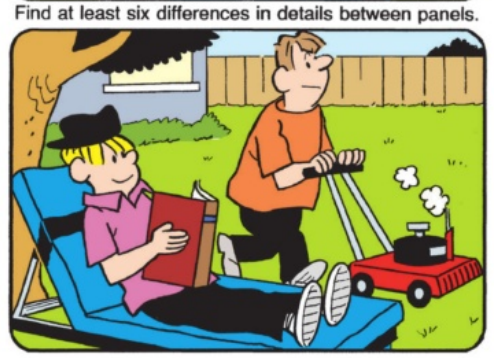
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



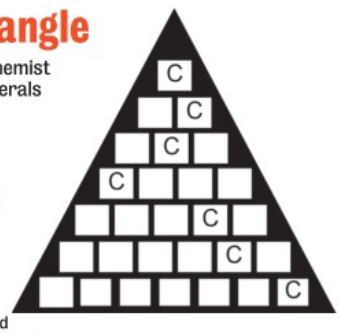
Differences: 1. Book is thicker. 2. Ear is smaller. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Window is wider. 5. Leg is moved. 6. Gap is moved.

Riddler

Touched by fire, I am bright. Constant use changes my height. Alive at night, out all day. Use me too much and I will disappear away. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Carbon for the chemist
2 99 in Roman numerals
3 Frozen water
4 Quote
5 Jiffy
6 Three times
7 Religious outcast

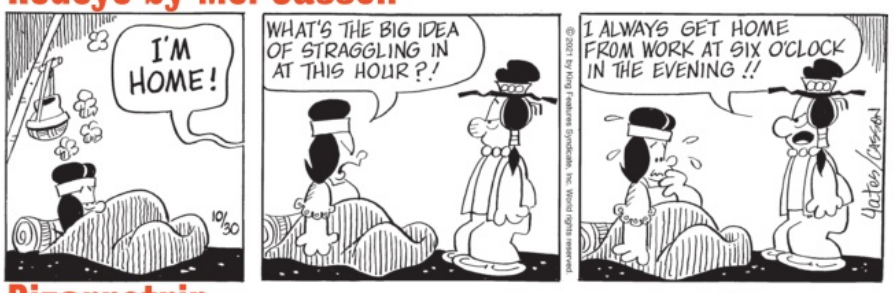


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro
11-10-21
Your job is easy. Try solving an emotional crisis while mixing a pitcher of mojitos.
BIZARRO.COM
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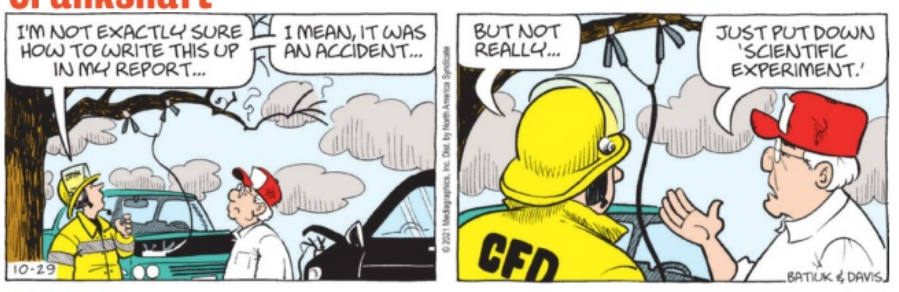
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft


I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE HOW TO WRITE THIS UP IN MY REPORT...
I MEAN, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT...
BUT NOT REALLY...
JUST PUT DOWN 'SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT.'
CFD
10-29
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be busy in family get-togethers; you may become polite with the people around you which may increase your image among your relatives and friends. You will spend money in buying some artefacts; other stuff which will improve your social status. You may hear some good news from one of your close relatives.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, happiness may be around you; it can help you to enjoy your day-to-day work. Your strength may help you to take difficult decisions, which will increase your profits in the near future. You may plan for a work-related short trip. Subordinates and colleagues may support you in completing your work on time. Students may focus more on studies. You are advised to control your eating habits to avoid stomach issues.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel dull; sleeplessness may affect your mental and physical health as well. You may also be upset due to health issues of your family member. Your expenditure on worthless stuff may affect your savings. You may be a victim of conspiracy so you are advised to keep an eye on your opponents.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may start your day with happiness. At work, you may take quick decisions which may give benefits in near future. You may expect some new source of income which may boost your savings. With the help of your partner, you may invest some amount in the business which may be profitable in near future. Your understandings with the spouse may increase which may result in harmony in domestic life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy at your office. Due to mental fatigue, you may not be able to give time to your family. With the help of elder's blessings, job-seekers may get a high position; managers may get promoted to top management. You may get rewards, which may increase your status. Professionally you may do better.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be happy and be patient which may reflect in your way of working. You may complete your task in an efficient way. You may plan to visit some religious place. You may make some donation to a religious place or some charity. Lovebirds may develop trust in their relationship; you may be able to control over your opponents.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel unhappy; you may feel dull; it will affect your way of working; there may be some delay in the projects to be completed. It may affect your prestige in your professional and domestic life. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. Lovebirds may break up. Job-seekers may be disappointed in terms of a new job.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel positive vibrations around you. Things are under control. You may plan to start a new business in a partnership. You may expect some long-distance travel also. You will bond with your spouse, which will bring harmony in your domestic life.

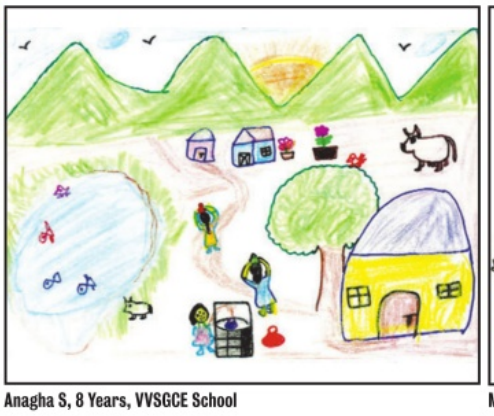
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may perform your best in office. You may have good bonding with the boss; you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured now. You may get good incentives for your work also. Disputes with the siblings may be resolved now. Job-seekers may find a new job.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel your life become challenging; you may take some advice from your elders to sustain the given situation. You need to have patience. Kids' education also make you upset; you may have a short trip in terms of kids' academics. Investors are advised to avoid speculation before making any investments.

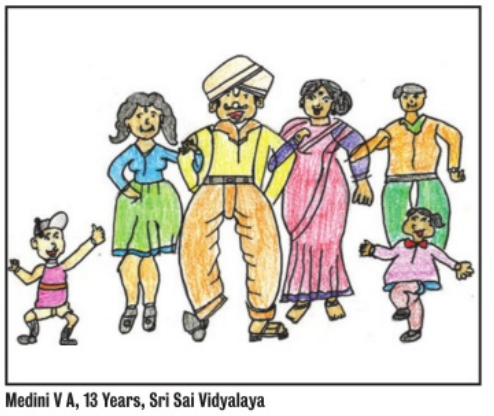
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you will be a victim of dissatisfaction; you may not get results for your hard work; it may disappoint. You are advised to read documents carefully before a new contract. Investment in the assets may also possible. You are advised follow your intuition before making investments in the fixed assets.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy in social get-togethers and family occasions. It may increase your network. You may also plan for a work-related short travel. Disputes between siblings will be resolved now. Your subordinates may cooperate you to complete a difficult project. Your confidence may be high. You are advised to keep patience while interacting.

KIDZONE



Anagha S, 8 Years, VVSGCE School



Medini V A, 13 Years, Sri Sai Vidyalaya

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
=(10):2(5)
=10:2*5
=5*5 = 25

BULL'S EYE
hilt, hiss, STYLISH

STRIKE OUT

C	A	S	T	O	N		S	H	A	R	E	D		
		T			E			E				I		
		O			B	E	N	E	V	O	L	E	N	T
		N			O									
		E			O	R	B	S						
					K									
					S									

FAST FIVE

L	O	R	I	S
T	A	I	G	A
S	E	T	A	E
A	B	A	M	P
S	H	O	O	K

RIDDLER A candle

QUOTE UNCODE
You can only find truth with logic, if you have already found it without it.

QUICK

			E	S	C	A	L	A	T	E				
				T		N								

MENSA PUZZLE
N. The alphabetical value of the letters in the left hand column follows through the sequence of Prime Numbers, with the letters in the right hand column representing the reverse alphabetical values.

SUDOKU

2	9	8	6	1	7	4	3	5
6	7	5	8	3	4	9	1	2
3	1	4	2	5	9	6	7	8
1	5	6	7	9	2	3	8	4
4	3	9	5	6	8	1	2	7
7	8	2	3	4	1	5	9	6
9	2	3	4	8	6	7	5	1
8	4	1	9	7	5	2	6	3
5	6	7	1	2	3	8	4	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, IC, Ice, Cite, Trice, Thrice, Heretic.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 – 2 + 6 + 5 = 14
Medium
7 – 5 x 7 – 9 = 5
Hard
8 – 6 + 9 – 9 = 2

LOOP

KAKURO

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Let's make the world a better place for kids

Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana consistently aims to bring constructive, positive changes in society with his progressive, conversation-starter entertainers.

Ayushmann has been recently appointed as UNICEF's Celebrity Advocate for their global campaign EVAC (Ending Violence Against Children).

On National Youth Day on Wednesday, Ayushmann has a special message towards curbing violence against children. In his message, he said, "The National Youth Day is yet another opportunity for all of us to commit ourselves to one important issue. As we begin this year, let's join hands to end violence against children everywhere. Violence, as we know affects children everywhere and in all aspects of their lives. Many young people today may have faced violence as children."

He also talked about building a culture of tolerance in homes, schools and social networks.

"I want to reiterate that violence and bullying in all its forms is unacceptable. We must build a culture of tolerance and respect and ensure that our homes, schools and social networks are safe places for children. As UNICEF's celebrity advocate for ending violence against children, I hope that together, we can make a difference," he added. Ayushmann also shared UNICEF's agenda for the year with regard to the youth of India.

"UNICEF works towards ensuring the rights of all children, everywhere, including their right to physical and mental well-being. This is even more important in the context of covid," he said.

Mouni Roy to tie the knot with beau Suraj Nambiar on January 27 in Goa?

Mouni Roy's rumoured wedding with her beau Suraj Nambiar has become the talk of the town. After a lot of speculations, the latest reports suggest that she is set to marry her love on January 27. Earlier, it was said that she will be tying the knot in Dubai, as she is often seen visiting her boyfriend there. But according to a newspaper report, Mouni will have a beach wedding in Goa.

A source has informed the portal that a five-star hotel has been booked and the invites have started rolling out. The report suggests guests have been asked to remain tight-lipped. They have also been asked to carry vaccination certificates. Mouni will reportedly be getting married in W, is at the Vagator Beach.

—ETimes

AGE NO BAR

Actors who have called out ageism in the industry, especially for women

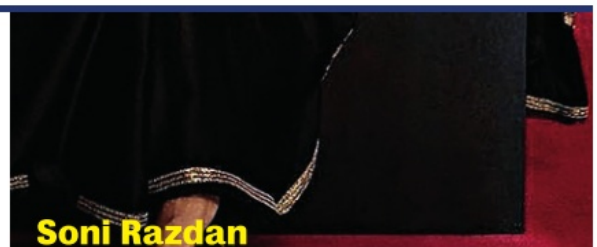
For the longest time, Bollywood actresses who crossed a certain age landed no work, while men of the same age ruled at the box office. While things are definitely changing on this front, it is still a long way to go. We take a look at actresses like Neena Gupta, Dia Mirza, Lara Dutta and others who have opened up how the film industry stereotypes older women.

Soha Ali Khan

Soha Ali Khan also joined the bandwagon of actresses calling out ageism in Bollywood by stating that these kinds of work did not exist a generation ago. According to her, if she had come back to just doing theatrical releases there would be nothing for her.

Dia Mirza

Expressing her opinion on older actors being cast opposite younger actresses, Dia Mirza had earlier told ETimes, "The idea of beauty is always associated with youthfulness. I think that is why there is a large interest in consuming younger faces or watching. An aberration to this would be an actress like Neena Gupta ji. She literally has said it out loud more than once, 'I am an actor. I love my job. Please cast me.'



Soni Razdan

Soni Razdan who is making her presence felt even today with brilliant performances in shows like, 'Call My Agent' and others recently pointed out to the fact that she did not get work for so many years owing to her age. According to her, Bollywood was completely skewed towards men. They could be 40, 50 and 60 and still be getting good roles but women didn't have those opportunities.

Thankfully, some interesting filmmakers decided to cast her in lead parts that were defeating her age. But there are a lot of actresses in their middle ages who are struggling and aren't being cast because no stories are being written for them." Elaborating further, she added, "The industry is male-dominated. Older men like to be cast opposite younger women to extend their own shelf life. It is bizarre that a 50 plus something actor is acting opposite a 19-year-old actress."

Neena Gupta

Neena Gupta is making the most of her second innings in Bollywood and a string of successful films she has been a part of is proof! The actress, who is known to wear her heart on her sleeves, had opened up about there not being enough roles for women of her age. Responding to a Tweet that read, 'I love @bhumipednekar and @taapsee but I kinda wish older actors were cast in these roles. Could you imagine @Neenagupta001 and @AzmiShabana or Jaya Bachchan? #SaandKiAankh', Neena had written, 'Yes i was just thinking about this hamari umar ke role toe kam-sekam humse kara lo bhai.'

Lara Dutta

Lara Dutta, who has been winning hearts with her performances on OTT of late, opened up about how she has received some critical and judgmental comments over the years. According to Lara, the industry is not kind to actresses of her age and they don't allow them to age gracefully. Although there are some credible actors like Kajol, Rani Mukerji, Madhuri Dixit and herself, rude audiences pass comments like, 'Buddhi ho gayi' and 'Ab moti ho gayi hai' when they come on screen. However, at the same time, actors like Neena Gupta and Ratna Pathak Shah are inspiring others with their incredible work.